

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A print processing apparatus comprising:

an object information identification section for receiving drawing data including a specific object and identifying said specific object as data for drawing a specific object from the drawing data;

a gradient adding section for adding a gradient to said drawing data on a per pixel basis; and

a screen processor for performing screen processing including setting of density to which a density parameter is applied based on said gradient;

wherein said screen processor performs specific screen processing for setting density to specific data out of said data for drawing a specific object by applying, as a density setting parameter, a parameter shifted to a lower density than said drawing data except said specific data.

2. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said setting of density includes setting of density using at least one of a plurality of dot types whose print volumes per dot differ from each other,

wherein said specific screen processing includes said setting of density using only a dot type whose print volume is the smallest out of said plurality of dot types, and

wherein the processing except said specific screen processing includes said setting of density using at least two types of dots out of said plurality of dot types.

3. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said gradient adding section further adds pixel identification information identified on a per pixel basis to said specific data, and

wherein said screen processor recognizes whether the data for drawing a specific object is said specific data based on said pixel identification information and performs said specific screen processing on a per pixel basis.

4. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein said gradient adding section performs forcible gradient setting processing which sets a specific gradient to said specific data on a per pixel basis and gradient adjustment processing which avoids setting of said specific gradient to said drawing data except said specific data, and

wherein said pixel identification information includes a value indicating a specific gradient in said drawing data.

5. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein said pixel identification information can identify a pixel corresponding to said specific data and includes a pixel identification table stored in a predetermined storage section.

6. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said specific object includes a character, and  
wherein said specific data includes data for drawing small-sized characters as said data for drawing specific object specifying a character equal to or smaller than a predetermined size.

7. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein said screen processor performs said specific screen processing on said data for drawing small-sized characters on a per character basis.

8. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said specific object includes an object other than a character, and  
wherein said specific data includes non-character data selected out of said data for drawing a specific object in accordance with a predetermined selection method.

9. (Original) The print processing apparatus according to claims 8, further comprising:

an area selection section for receiving said drawing data, displaying an image which is based on said drawing data on predetermined display means, and allowing

an area in the image which is based on said drawing data to be selected as a selected area by way of operation from a predetermined input section,

wherein said predetermined selection method includes a method for selecting said drawing data corresponding to said selected area as said selected non-character data.

10. (Original) A print processing apparatus comprising:

a gradient adding section for adding a gradient to drawing data on a per pixel basis; and

a screen processor for performing screen processing including setting of density to which a density parameter is applied based on said gradient,

wherein said gradient adding section performs forcible gradient setting processing which sets a specific gradient to said specific data on a per pixel basis and gradient adjustment processing which avoids setting of said specific gradient to said drawing data except said specific data, and

wherein said screen processor recognizes whether the data for drawing a specific object is said specific data on a per pixel basis based on the gradient of said drawing data and performs specific screen processing on the specific data on a per pixel basis.

11. (Original) A print processing method comprising:

(a) step of identifying a specific object as data for drawing a specific object from drawing data including the specific object;

(b) a step of adding a gradient to said drawing data on a per pixel basis; and

(c) a step of performing screen processing including setting of density to which a density parameter is applied based on said gradient,

wherein said method performs specific screen processing which performs density setting by applying, as a density setting parameter, a parameter shifted to a lower density than said drawing data except said specific data, to specific data out of said data for drawing a specific object.

12. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 11,

wherein said setting of density in said step (c) includes setting of density using at least one of a plurality of dot types whose print volumes per dot differ from each other,

wherein said specific screen processing includes said setting of density using only a dot type whose print volume is the smallest out of said plurality of dot types, and

wherein the processing except said specific screen processing includes said setting of density using at least two types of dots out of said plurality of dot types.

13. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 11,

wherein said step (b) further adds pixel identification information identified on a per pixel basis to said specific data, and

wherein said step (c) recognizes whether the data for drawing a specific object is said specific data based on said pixel identification information and performs said specific screen processing on a per pixel basis.

14. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 13,

wherein said step (b) includes:

(b-1) a step of setting a specific gradient to said specific data on a per pixel basis; and

(b-2) a step of avoiding setting of said specific gradient to said drawing data except said specific data,

wherein said pixel identification information includes a value indicating a specific gradient in said drawing data.

15. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 13,

wherein said pixel identification information can identify a pixel corresponding to said specific data and includes a pixel identification table stored in a predetermined storage section.

16. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 11,

wherein said specific object includes a character, and

wherein said specific data includes data for drawing small-sized characters as said data for drawing specific object specifying a character equal to or smaller than a predetermined size.

17. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 16,  
wherein said step (c) performs said specific screen processing on said data for drawing small-sized characters on a per character basis.

18. (Original) The print processing method according to claim 11,  
wherein said specific object includes an object other than a character, and  
said method further includes:

(d) a step of receiving said drawing data, displaying an image which is based on said drawing data on predetermined display means, and prompting selection of an area in the image which is based on said drawing data as a selected area by way of operation from a predetermined input section; and

(e) a step of selecting said drawing data corresponding to said selected area as said non-character data selected by way of operation from said predetermined input section during said step (d).

19. (Original) A print processing method comprising:

(a) a step of adding a gradient to drawing data on a per pixel basis; and

(b) a step of performing screen processing including setting of density to which a density parameter is applied based on said gradient,

wherein said step (a) includes:

(a-1) a step of setting a specific gradient to specific data out of said drawing data on a per pixel basis; and

(a-2) a step of avoiding setting of said specific gradient to said drawing data except said specific data, and

wherein said step (b) recognizes whether the data for drawing a specific object is said specific data on a per pixel basis based on the gradient of said drawing data and performs specific screen processing on the specific data on a per pixel basis.

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20. (Canceled)